MONROE AUTO EQUIPMENT CO. (PARAGOULD PIT) ARKANSAS

EPA ID# ARD980864110
Site ID: 0600246

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

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Background

The Monroe Auto Pit Superfund Site (the site), also known as the Finch Road Landfill, is located in northeastern Arkansas in unincorporated Greene County, approximately three miles southwest of Paragould. The site lies immediately west of Arkansas Highway 358, approximately three miles west of its intersection with U.S. Highway 49. The site lies in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 5 East, in the Paragould West 7.5-minute quadrangle. The southwestern corner of the site is at latitude 36°01'0" and longitude 90°34'30". The site occupies 7 acres of a former sand and gravel borrow pit. The area is basically rural and lightly populated with private residences located immediately south, north, and northeast of the site.

The site is owned by Tenneco Automotive, Inc., successor to Monroe Auto Equipment Company, One International Drive, Monroe, Michigan. The property is identified as parcel no. 4071-1 in Greene County Tax Assessor's office. The legal description provided in the property deed is "all that part of the south half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 5 East lying West of the highway No. 358" (Warranty Deed 1973).

Monroe Auto Equipment Company (now Tenneco Automotive, Inc.) purchased the property for disposal of alum and lime electroplating sludge that originated from settling ponds used for the treatment of wastewater from Monroe Auto Equipment's Paragould manufacturing plant. The waste material was placed on the site from 1973 to 1978, resulting in over 10,000 cubic yards (CY) of sludge at the site in the sand and gravel pit.

In July 1987, the EPA conducted a Site Assessment inspection to assess the potential for public exposure to contaminants being released from the site. Subsequently on August 30, 1990, the site was formally added to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund Sites. Principal pollutants identified by the EPA included solvents and degreasing agents such as 1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCA), 1,2-Dichloroethene (1,2-DCE), Xylenes, and metals. As an interim action, Tenneco initiated sampling of private residential wells located within ½ mile of the site beginning in July 1987.

An initial Remedial Action (RA) including removal of the sludge and impacted soil, was executed in accordance with the original Record of Decision (ROD) dated September 26, 1996, the Amended Record of Decision dated November 9, 2000 (signed by the state of Arkansas on September 15, 2000), and the *Request for Approval of Proposed Removal Action Remedy* letter dated September 24, 1999. The remedy for the site is comprised of two components, the initial RA and post-remedial monitoring. The initial RA was completed in the fall of 1999 and Tenneco continues to conduct monitoring of the ground

water in areas surrounding the site.

Tenneco initiated periodic ground water monitoring of select wells in 1988 and semi-annual monitoring of 18 wells, as outlined in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan (SECOR, November 2000) (GMP) beginning in March 2001. Groundwater monitoring, as presented in the GMP has included five events including semi-annual monitoring of 18 wells for SVOCs, metals and VOCs over the past 2.5 years. Overall, concentrations of SVOCs and metals were low in the initial sampling completed in 1988 and for the most part remained near or below the remedial action goals for these respective compounds throughout; and any locations exhibiting concentrations above the remedial action goals have naturally attenuated to levels below the remedial action goals for the site. However, select wells have exhibited higher concentrations of VOCs. Throughout the groundwater monitoring activities at the site, well ESA-2A has exhibited the highest concentrations of VOCs, including 1,2 Dichloroethylene (DCE) at 750 ug/L in March of 1988. Over the years of ground water monitoring at the site, after completion of the Soil Remedy in December 1999 which resulted in removal of the source of contaminants, indicate that concentrations of contaminants in the groundwater have naturally attenuated to levels nearing the remedial action goals for VOCs at the site. Currently, 1,2 DCE concentrations in well ESW-2A have naturally attenuated, based on the most recent sampling completed in July 2003, to 66 ug/L (Remedial Action Goal – 70 ug/L). Based on the most recent groundwater sampling results presented in the First Half of 2003 Semi-Annual Sampling Report [Parsons, December 2003], only two wells (ESW-2A and EWS-14-3) exhibit detectable concentrations of COCs (1,2 Dichloroethene) during the first half 2003 groundwater sampling event. Both of these detections were below the Remedial Action Goal for 1,2 DCE presented in the ROD. The results of groundwater monitoring since removing the contaminated soil and sludge demonstrate the effectiveness of the soil remedy, and it is anticipated that site will achieve the ROD remediation goals on or before the end of the next five-year review period.

Current Status

Results of the groundwater sampling event conducted on April 9th and 10th, 2008, indicated that no wells contained contaminants above the remedial goals. Additionally, no wells had concentrations above MCLs in the Upper Wilcox aquifer. A second five year review was completed in the late Summer of 2009. This five year review concluded that this site will be deleted from the NPL, and all groundwater monitoring can be terminated.

Benefits

The EPA conducted initial investigations and had determined that the Site does not pose an immediate threat to area residents. No further EPA actions were required while the State oversaw the implementation by Monroe Auto of the remedy that is protective of human health and of the ground water.

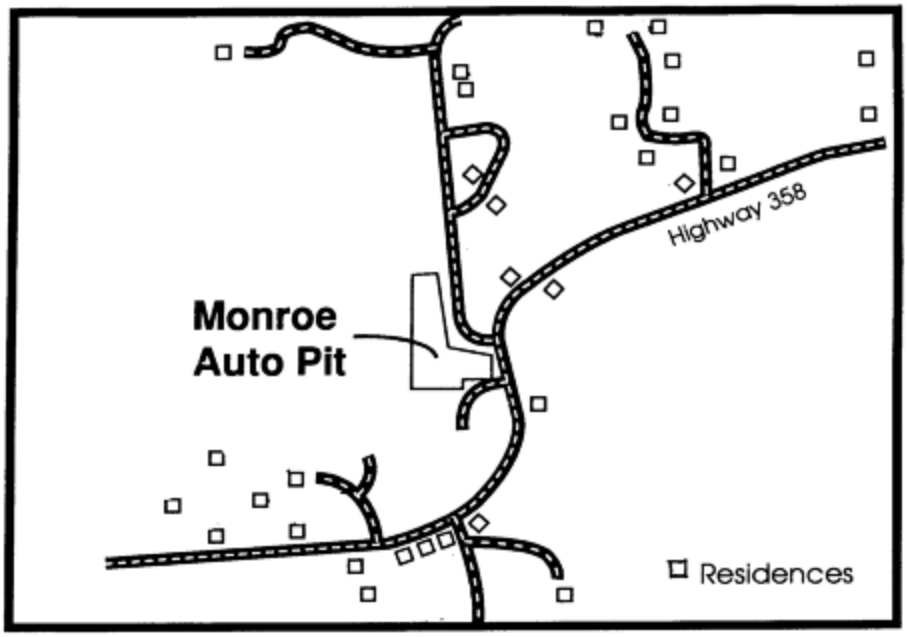
National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

NPL Proposal Date: October 15, 1981
NPL Final Date: August 29, 1990

Population: Approximately 21,000 (City of Paragould).

Setting: The Site occupies 7 acres of a former sand and gravel borrow pit. Four acres of the Site are surrounded by a 6-foot chain link fence with barbed wire and a locked access gate. The area is basically rural and lightly populated with private residences located immediately south, north, and northeast of the Site. The Site is located on the eastern flank of Crowleys Ridge, a north-south trending physiographic feature. The topography of the Site area consists of undulating hills. Elevations at the Site vary from 460 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northeastern corner of the Site to 413 feet above MSL in the southwestern corner of the Site.

Site Map



Wastes and Volumes

Principal pollutants include solvents and degreasing agents such as 1,1 Dichloroethane, 1,2 Dichloroethylene, Xylenes, and metals such as chromium and lead. The Site contained an estimated 3000 cubic yards of electroplating waste (sludge) and 15,000 tons of contaminated soil.

Health Considerations

The Remedial Investigation evaluated risks to human health and the environment. Results from the risk assessment identified a future risk to a resident due to ingestion of contaminated soils, surface water, and groundwater. Future risks were also determined due to contamination of nearby streams from potentially contaminated surface springs runoff.

Record of Decision (ROD)

EPA signed the Record of Decision on September 26, 1996.

This ROD sets forth the selected remedy for the Site, which involves actions to address 1,1 DCE, 1,2 DCE, Xylenes and chromium and lead in the soils and groundwater. This was the only operable unit for the site and the selected remedial action is intended to address all areas of concern at the Site. The selected remedy is a comprehensive approach for the Site and addresses all current and potential future risks caused by the soil and ground water contamination. The major components of the remedy are:

Soil and Sludge: (Alternative 4B)

1) Cap the sludge disposal area in accordance with RCRA Subtitle C requirements.
2) Install a French drain around the area of sludge deposits. The French drain would intercept perched ground water before it enters the contaminated area.
3) Prohibit future development of the Site.

4) Conduct environmental monitoring to ensure effectiveness of the remedial action.
5) On April 19, 2000, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality issued an Amendment to the Proposed Plan outlining a new remedy that calls for the waste to be excavated and transported to a secure, licensed landfill.

Ground Water: (Alternative 2)

1) Reduce contaminant concentrations through naturally attenuating processes such as biological/chemical/physical degradation, adsorption and dispersion.
2) Place ground water use restrictions on the Site property.
3) Conduct ground water monitoring of monitoring wells on the Site and near the Site and residential wells.
4) Implement immediate and secondary contingency actions if necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Site Contacts

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